SSI units in the country

1018. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SSI units in the country;

(b) the number of SSI units that are either sick or closed till 2003 and the total number of employees who lost their job; and

(c) the contribution of SSI in Gross Domestic Products (GDP) during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The total number of SSI units both registered and un-registered in the country as on 31.3.2004 is estimated to be 113.95 lakhs.

(b) During the survey of the registered SSI units, conducted at the time of the 3rd All India Census of SSI units, it was found that 39% of these units (numbering 8,87,427) were closed. As per the information available with the Reserve Bank of India, there were 1,67,980 sick SSI units as at the end of March, 2003. Information on number of employees who lost their job as a result of closure/sickness is not maintained Centrally.

(c) The contribution of SSI units in the Gross Domestic Products (GDP) during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (latest available) was 6.86%, 6.68% and 6.81% respectively.

Packages for SSIs

1019. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed new schemes as promotional packages for the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the production and exports by SSIs sector during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A Policy package already exists for promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector, which *inter-alia* includes fiscal incentives, easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loans up to Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, announcement of a major promotional package for the SSI sector is also a part of National Common Minimum Programme of Government.

(c) The details regarding the production and export by SSI Sector during the last five years are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Production at current prices (Rupees Crores)	Exports (Rupees Crores)
1.	1999-00	234255.00	54200.00
2.	2000-01	261289.00	69797.00
3.	2001-02	282270.00	71244.00
4.	2002-03	311993.00	86013.00*
5.	2003-04	351427.00	N.A.

*(Latest available)

National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System

1020. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and USA propose to collaborate in the 'National Polar Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System' (NPOESS) which would be used for remote sensing;

(b) if so, whether the system would be used to predict cyclones, help in disaster management, in areas of agriculture, fisheries, maritime, industries and other economic sector; and

(c) if so, whether this project would have any defence implications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA have agreed to explore the possibility of